

The NORTHERN GARLAND,

In four PARTS.

PART I. How a Northern Lord made a Sale of his fair and beautiful Daughter to a worthy Knight; the price being her weight of Gold, which was borrowed of a Jew on a dreadful Agreement.

PART II. How he fled from the Jew to the German Court, where he was kindly entertained, till a Dutch Lord had like to have deprived him of his Lady, Life, and Honour.

PART III. How the Dutch Lord, because he could not have his will, sent for the Jew to cut him in pieces for that Gold, and how he was delivered from that danger by his Lady in Man's Apparel.

PART IV. How the Northern Lord hearing the false report of his Daughter's Death, went over to see his Son executed; and how his Daughter under the name of the *Green Knight*, pleaded his cause from Time to Time, and delivered him from Death: concluded with a happy discovery, which crowned them with an universal Joy.



The NORTHERN GARLAND, &c.

A *Northern* Lord of high renown,
 Two daughters had, the eldest brown
 The younger beautiful and fair,
 A worthy knight by chance came there.

The father said, kind sir, I have
 Two daughters here, which do you crave ?
 She that is beautiful, he cry'd,
 The noble Lord he then reply'd ;

She's charming, beautiful, and gay,
 And is not to be given away ;
 But as rich treasure bought and sold,
 And shall fetch me her weight in gold.

The price I think you need not grudge,
 For I would freely give as much,
 With her own sister if I can,
 Light of a loving nobleman.

With that reply the noble knight,
 I'd rather have that beauty bright,
 At your great price renowned Lord,
 Than the other with a large reward.

The bargain being fairly made,
 Before the money could be paid.
 He borrowed of a wealthy Jew,
 That mighty sum and writings drew.

That if he fail'd or miss'd the day,
 So many ounces he should pay,
 Of his own flesh, instead of gold ;
 All was agreed the money told.

Then he returned immediately,
To the great Lord, where he did buy
His daughter, beautiful and fair,
And paid him down the money there.

He bought her, therefore it is well known,
To all mankind she was his own;
By whom a son he did enjoy,
A sweet and pritty sprightly boy.

At length the time of day drew near,
And therefore he began to fear,
The torture of the cruel Jew,
Because the money now was due.

And since the same he could not pay,
He would as many Ounces weigh,
Of his dear flesh pick'd from the bones;
This made him sigh with bitter groans.

His lady ask'd him why he griev'd,
He said, my Jewel, I receiv'd,
That sum of money from a Jew,
With which I have bought and purchas'd you.

And now the day of payment's come,
And since I cannot raise the sum,
He'll have my flesh love weight for weight,
This makes my grief and sorrow great.

Tush, ne'er fear him, she reply'd,
We'll cross the ocean that's so wide,
And so secure you from that fate,
To her request he yielded straight.

P A R T II.

THEN having cross'd the roaring Seas,
 They travell'd on till by degrees,
 Unto the *German* Court they came.

The Knight, his Son, the royal dame.

Then to the Emperor he told,
 The story of the sum of Gold,
 Which he had borrowed of a Jew,
 And that for fear of death he flew.

The Emperor he did erect,
 A court for them and shew'd respect,
 To his new guests, because they came,
 From Britain that blest land of fame.

While there they liv'd with much delight
 A Dutch Lord told the noble knight,
 That he a ton of gold would lay,
 He would enjoy his lady gay.

From her the Dutch Lord was to bring,
 A rich and costly diamond ring,
 Which was to prove and testify,
 That he did with his lady lie.

He tried but could not obtain,
 Her favour, for with high disdain,
 She did abhor his base intent;
 So to her servant-maid he went.

And told her if she would but steal,
 Her lady's ring, and so conceal
 The same, and bring it to him straight,
 She would enjoy a fair estate.

In hopes of such a large reward,
The ring she stole, then the Dutch lord,
He brought it to her noble knight,
Who almost swooned at the sight,

Home he ran to his lady straight,
Where meeting her at the palace gate,
He threw her headlong down the mote
And left her there to sink or float.

As down the stream she floating pass'd,
A miller catch'd her at the last,
Saving her life and jewels too,
Which was more than her husband knew.

Soon after this in cloaths of green,
She like a warlike knight was seen,
Mounted on a stately steed,
So to the court she rode with speed.

When the emperor her beheld,
With brave deportment she was fill'd,
And admiration at the sight,
She call'd herself an *English* knight.

The emperor then did reply,
There is an *English* knight to die,
For drowning of his lady gay,
Quoth she I'd see him if I may.

'Tis granted, so to him she came,
And as she call'd him by his name,
She said, kind sir, be of good cheer,
Thy friend I'll be, thou need not fear.

She to the emperor did ride,
And said, pray let this cause be try'd
Once more, for I'm in hopes to save,
This *English* Gallant from the grave.

'Twas granted, and the court being set,
The Dutch lord came, who seem'd to fret
About the ring, for he did fear,
The truth would make his shame appear.

And so it did, straight they call'd
The maid, who on her knees did fall
Before the court, and did confess,
The Dutch lord's unworthiness.

He hired me to steal a ring,
Which he did to my master bring,
And said he had it from his wife,
It was the cause of all this strife.

The court reply'd, and as 'tis so,
The lady too, for ought we know,
May be alive, therefore we'll stay,
His sentence till another day.

And you Dutch lord, give him the ring
Of gold, which he has fairly won ;
And so he did with shame and grief,
And thus the knight obtain'd relief.

P A R T III.

THE Dutch lord to revenge the spite,
Upon the noble English knight,
Did send a letter out of hand,
That so the Jew might understand.

That he was in the German court,
Therefore upon this true report,
The Jew he cross'd the ocean wide,
Resolved to be satisfied.

So soon as e'er he fixed his eyes,
Upon the knight in wrath he cries,
Your hand and seal I pray behold,
Your flesh I'll have instead of gold.

Then said the noble knight in Green
Pray may your articles be seen,
Yes, that they may, reply'd the Jew,
And I resolve to have my due.

The knight in green began to read,
At length he said, I find indeed,
You nothing else but flesh must have,
The Jew reply'd, 'Tis all I crave.

With that reply'd the Emperor,
 Pray let me see it worthy sir
 Who did this bloody bond contrive?
 What cut him into stakes alive.

The poor distressed knight was brought,
 The bloody-minded Jew he thought,
 To be rerenged that day on him,
 And part his flesh from every limb.

Then said the noble knight in green,
 Jew, is thy knife both sharp and keen
 Yes, 'tis he cryd' you need not fear,
 His arms and legs of flesh I'll clear.

The knight in Green said, master Jew,
 There's nothing else but flesh your due;

Then see no drop of blood you shed,
 For if you do, off goes your head.

Pray take your due with all my heart,
 But with his blood we will not part;
 With that the Jew he sneak'd away,
 And had not one word more to say.

The knight in green got loud applause
 In that he made him quit the cause,
 by telling him what would ensue,
 If any drops of blood he drew.

P A R T IV.

NO sooner were these troubles past,
 But his wife's father came at last,
 Resolving for to have his life,
 for drowning his beloved wife.

Over the seas her father brought
 Many brave horses, one was bought
 By the pertended knight in green,
 The very best that e'er was seen,

Then to the German court they came
 Declaring such a one by name,
 Had drowned his daughter dear,
 And ought to die a death severe,

They brought him from the prison then,
 Guarded by many armed men,
 To the place where he was to die,
 The knight in green was standing by.

Where from her side the sword she drew,
 And run her gelding through and through,
 Her father cry'd, why do you so?
 She said, it is my own you know.

You sold this gelding, 'tis well known,
 I bought it making it my own,
 And may do what I please with it;
 To what she said, he did submit.

Here's a man arraign'd and cast,
 And brought to suffer death at last,
 Because your daughter dear he slew,
 Perhaps he might, what's that to you?

You took this money when you sold
 Your daughter for her wight in gold,
 Therefore he might it is well known,
 Do what he please with what's his own.

The noble lord, her father dear,
 As he these arguments did hear,
 Forgave him then immediately,
 Declaring that he should not die.

Then having chang'd her garments green,
 And deck'd herself like a fair Queen;
 Her father and her husband straight,
 They knew her and their joys were great.

Soon did they carry this report,
 Through all the famous German court,
 How the renowned English knight,
 Had found his charming beauty bright.
 The Emperor and Lords of fame,
 With chearful hearts they did proclaim,
 An universal joy to see,
 His lady's life and liberty.